THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT) : (a) to (d) The Government has initiated the process of formulation of a new Science and Technology policy for the country. A draft document was prepared for discussion and consultation with a wide cross section of opinion. Views of many scientists, scientific bodies and agencies including institutions dealing with social sciences were taken in formulating the draft. This was also put on the internet for members of public to send their comments. The comments received from different segments have been considered by a high level committee under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Science and Technology, set up for finalising the policy to enable the final draft to be placed before appropriate levels in the Government for adoption and approval.

Millennium Science and Technology Policy

301. SHRI R.P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the draft Millennium Science and Technology Policy reportedly finalised recently, highlights the loss of an entire generation of talent, an aging pool of scientists, obsolete labs, declining quality of research, poor technology transfer and other inadequacies;

(b) if so, the details of deficiencies observed and the main features of the new policy out line;

(c) the broad framework of corrective steps proposed to attract the best available creative talent and to create the required infrastructure for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) No Millennium Science and Technology Policy has been finalised.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Question does not arise.

Panel for fixing up time zones

302. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a panel for fixing up different time zones in the country;

(b) if so, the basis of selection of the panel;

(c) whether any specific recommendation has been given to the panel in respect of the number of time zones, the geographical division and the base of local time zone of the division;

(d) whether any earlier research finding in this regard is available; and

(e) by when, the report of the panel is expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT) : (a) to (e) Government has constituted a Committee with Secretary, DST as Chairman and other experts in the subject to look into various aspects of adopting different time zones in the country and provide necessary recommendations. The Committee has received inputs from the National Physical Laboratory, which has been conducting research and development relating to time including considerations for fixing time zones. The Committee has also had access to studies which have been conducted regarding the implication of adopting dual time zones and its impact. Several other inputs in the form of deliberations of earlier Committees and other facts relating to fixing of standard time and the basis thereof were available to the Committee. Based on the inputs the Committee has commenced the process of finalizing its recommendations.

Cloning by CCMB

303. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad has embarked upon a project to apply the DNA technology and reproductive biology technology for socially relevant problems;

(b) whether the Scientists at the centre have taken up a project to clone extinct animals like cheetah; and

(c) if so, the details of the project and the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT) : (a) The Centre for Cellular and Molecular